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RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6581
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 4638
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3359
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0288
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RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0468
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2536
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RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 4929
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1547
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
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RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNS/COMSOPAC HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
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RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 001987

SIPDIS

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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/28/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [MOPS](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA SIGNS UP TO PROLIFERATION SECURITY
INITIATIVE

Classified By: Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr., for reasons 1.4(b,d).

11. (SBU) Summary: The Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) notified the Embassy via diplomatic note of its intention to support the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). The GSL cautioned that it will do so "consistent with its national laws and obligations under international law." Complete text of note is cited in last paragraph. Please see action request for SCA and ISN in para 3.

12. (C) Comment: Ambassador and other members of the Mission have been pushing the GSL to support PSI on the grounds that since Sri Lanka wants international help in interdicting LTTE (Tamil Tiger) arms shipments, it should reciprocate by joining PSI. We judge that Sri Lanka inserted the cautionary language so as not to offend India, which has not yet signed up to PSI. It is also likely that Sri Lanka was anticipating a move by India to join PSI. The government would have come under criticism by nationalist parties if it had appeared to follow an Indian lead; hence the "domestic compulsion" to beat India to the punch.

13. (C) ACTION REQUEST for SCA/INS and ISN: For our further consultations with the government of Sri Lanka and other like-minded missions in Colombo, it would be useful to be able to convey ideas on next steps for Sri Lankan participation in PSI. We assume that Sri Lanka will be invited to future meetings on PSI. However, the Sri Lankan Navy largely lacks the capacity to intercept ships on the open seas.
-- What concrete steps can the GSL take to become an active partner?
-- What assistance, if any is the U.S. prepared to offer?

14. (SBU) Text of Diplomatic Note:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Colombo and has the honour to inform the latter the following:

The Government of Sri Lanka welcomes and supports in principle the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and the 4 September 2003 Statement of Interdiction Principles (SOP).

Sri Lanka's support to the PSI and SOP reflects its willingness to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their means of delivery and related materials, consistent with its national laws and obligations under international law. It is also a reflection of its commitment to fully implement the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and other relevant resolutions dealing with non-proliferation of WMDs.

Sri Lanka is committed to upholding the PSI SOP and looks forward to participating, to the extent possible on a voluntary and non-binding basis, in future PSI-related activities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs appreciates if the Embassy of the United States of America could inform the relevant US authorities on the decision made by the Government of Sri Lanka to support in principle the Proliferation Security Initiative in accordance with the announcement as stated above.

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America in Colombo the assurances of its highest consideration.

Colombo, 23 November 2006

End Text of Diplomatic Note.

BLAKE